

# Probability Reminder

Cryptography and Protocols  
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## 样本空间 Sample Space and Outcomes

- Experiments and outcomes
- Sample space is the set of all possible outcomes
- Examples
  - flipping a coin  $\Omega = \{\text{heads, tails}\}$
  - flipping a pair of coins  $\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$
  - horse race (7 horses)  $\Omega = \{\text{all } 7! \text{ permutations of } (1,2,3,4,5,6,7)\}$
  - tossing two dice  $\Omega = \{11, 12, \dots, 66\}$   
抛两个骰子
  - flipping k coins  $\Omega = \{0,1\}^k$

## Events

- Event is any subset of the sample space
- Examples
  - any outcome is an event (a 1-element subset)
  - getting even number of heads when flipping a pair of coins
  - horse no. 4 came second
  - getting at least one 3 when tossing two dice
- Algebra of events
  - union of events  $A \cup B$
  - intersection  $A \cap B$
  - complement  $\bar{A}$
  - mutually exclusive events  $A \cap B = \emptyset$  A B 不相交

## Probability: Case of Equally Likely Outcomes

- If all the outcomes are equally likely, then the probability of event A equals

$$\Pr[A] = \frac{m}{n}$$

where  $m$  is the number of outcomes in  $A$ , and  $n$  the total number of outcomes

- Examples
  - getting even number of heads when flipping a pair of coins
  - horse no. 4 came second
  - getting at least one 3 when tossing two dice

### 1. Flipping a pair of coins

$$\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$$

$$n = |\Omega| = 4$$

event A : even # of heads

$$A = \{HH, TT\}$$

$$m = |A| = 2$$

$$\Pr[A] = \frac{m}{n} = \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$$

### 2. Horse race

$$\Omega = \{\text{permutations of 7 horses}\}$$

$$n = |\Omega| = 7! = 7 \cdot 6 \cdots 1$$

A = horse # 4 comes 2nd = {permutations of 6 horses}

$$m = |A| = 6!$$

$$\Pr[A] = \frac{m}{n} = \frac{6!}{7!} = \frac{1}{7}$$

### 3. Getting a 3 when tossing 2 dice

$$\Omega = \{11, 12, \dots, 66\}$$

$$n = |\Omega| = 36$$

$$A = \{31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 13, 23, \cancel{33}, 43, 53, 63\}$$

$$m = |A| = 11 \quad \Pr[A] = \frac{11}{36}$$

## Distribution

- In the general case each outcome  $a$  is associated with probability it happens  $\Pr[\{a\}]$ , or just  $\Pr[a]$ . The collection of these numbers is called a **distribution**
- A distribution must satisfy the property

$$\sum_{a \in \Omega} \Pr[a] = 1$$

- Examples
  - **uniform distribution**: all outcomes are equally likely
  - **important uniform distribution**,  $U_n$  selecting an  $n$ -bit string
  - **crooked die**:  $\Pr[1] = 1/3$ ,  $\Pr[2] = \Pr[3] = \Pr[4] = \Pr[5] = 1/6$ ,  $\Pr[6] = 0$  歪骰子

## General Probability

- Given a probability distribution over  $\Omega$  we can define the probability of any event as follows:

$$\Pr[A] = \sum_{a \in A} \Pr[a]$$

- Examples

- What is the probability to get an even number tossing a crooked die:

$$\Pr[1] = 1/3, \Pr[2] = \Pr[3] = \Pr[4] = \Pr[5] = 1/6, \Pr[6] = 0$$

*Crooked die*

*A even number when rolling the die.*

$$A = \{2, 4, 6\}$$

$$\Pr[A] = \Pr[2] + \Pr[4] + \Pr[6]$$

$$= \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} + 0$$

$$= \frac{1}{3}$$

## Properties of Probability

- $\Pr[\bar{A}] = 1 - \Pr[A]$
- If  $A \subseteq B$  then  $\Pr[A] \leq \Pr[B]$
- $\Pr[A \cup B] = \Pr[A] + \Pr[B] - \Pr[AB]$
- Examples
  - what is the probability to get at least one heads flipping 33 coins?
- Union Bound: union 的上限  
For any events  $A$  and  $B$   $\Pr[A \cup B] \leq \Pr[A] + \Pr[B]$
- Consider  $U_3$  and estimate the probability that a string starts with 1 or ends with 1  
 $U_3$ : select an 3-bit string



- what is the probability to get at least one heads flipping 33 coins?

A getting at least 1 heads

$\bar{A}$  getting no heads

$$\bar{A} = \{TT \dots T\} \quad (33 \text{ times})$$

$$|\bar{A}| = 1 \quad |\Omega| = 2^{33}$$

$$\Pr[\bar{A}] = \frac{1}{2^{33}}$$

$$\Pr[A] = 1 - \Pr[\bar{A}] = 1 - \frac{1}{2^{33}}$$

## Conditional Probability

- The probability of event A conditional on event B is the probability that A happened if it is known that B happened

- Example ↳ A based on B, 也就是B, 此时B为总集.

Toss two dice. What is the probability that the sum of the two dice is 8 if the first die is 3?

A: the sum is 8

B: the 1st die 3

$B = \{31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36\}$

the conditional probability of A given B :  $\frac{1}{6}$

## Conditional Probability

- Probability of  $A$  conditional on  $B$  is denoted  $\Pr[A | B]$
- This probability equals

$$\Pr[A|B] = \frac{\Pr[A \cap B]}{\Pr[B]}$$

- Multiplication rule:  $\Pr[A \cap B] = \Pr[A|B] \cdot \Pr[B]$

## Independent Events *A, B 互不相关*

- Events  $A, B$  are independent if  $\Pr[A|B] = \Pr[A]$  and  $\Pr[B|A] = \Pr[B]$
- Examples:
  - flipping two coins  $A = \{\text{first coin comes up heads}\}$ ,  $B = \{\text{second coin comes up heads}\}$  *Independent*
  - tossing two dice  $A = \{\text{sum of the dice is 3}\}$ ,  $B = \{\text{first die is even}\}$  *not independent*

$$B = \{21 \dots 26, 41 \dots 46, 61 \dots 66\}$$

$$\Pr[B] = \frac{18}{36} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$A \cap B = \{21\}$$

$$\Pr[A \cap B] = \frac{1}{36}$$

$$\Pr[A|B] = \frac{1/36}{1/2} = \frac{1}{18}$$

$$\Pr[A|B] = \frac{\Pr[A \cap B]}{\Pr[B]}$$

$$\Pr[A] = \frac{2}{36} = \frac{1}{18}$$

$$A = \{12, 21\}$$

## Random Variables

- A random variable is a function of the outcomes
- Formally:  $X: \Omega \rightarrow R$  (real numbers)  $\Omega$  是总集
- Discrete random variable:  $X: \Omega \rightarrow \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$
- Examples:
  - sum of two dice
  - number of heads
  - lifetime of an electric bulb 电灯泡
- Sum and product of random variables  $X + Y$ ,  $XY$ ,  $aX$

$X$ : sum of #'s on 2 dice

$V = \{2, 3, 4, \dots, 12\}$  (11 possible #'s)

$\Pr[X=2] = \frac{1}{36}$  only outcome: 11

$\Pr[X=3] = \frac{2}{36} = \frac{1}{18}$  2 outcomes: 12 21

## Distribution of Random Variable

- Let  $X$  be a discrete random variable with values  $x_1, \dots, x_k$   
Then its distribution is a collection of numbers  $p_1, \dots, p_k$   
such that  $\Pr[X = x_i] = p_i$
- Note:  $\sum_{i=1}^k p_i = 1$
- Examples:
  - uniform distribution : all probabilities are equal, e.g. random variable  $X$  with values  $0 = \text{heads}$  and  $1 = \text{tails}$  when flipping a coin (Bernoulli random variable)  
伯努利 随机变量
  - sum of two dice is not uniform

## Distribution of Random Variable: More Examples

### ● Examples:

- number of heads when flipping  $k$  coins  $U_k$

$k=3$   $\Pr[N=1] = \frac{3}{8}$  100 010 001

$\Pr[N=3] = \frac{1}{8}$  111

- more general – binomial random variable  $N$ : the number of successes in  $k$  repetitions of the same experiment (*independent!*); each repetition is successful with probability  $p$

## Binomial Random Variable = 二项式随机变量

0 - failure

1 - success

- Suppose that the outcomes of the experiment are bits 0 and 1  
1 happens with probability  $p$
- The probability of a particular string with  $m$  1s:  $p^m(1 - p)^{k-m}$
- The probability of a string with  $m$  1s:

$$\Pr[N = m] = \binom{k}{m} p^m (1 - p)^{k-m}$$

- Let  $N_i$  be the random variable that equals the number of successes in the  $i$ 'th experiment. Then

$$N = N_1 + \cdots + N_k$$



## Expectation

- The expectation of a random variable is its 'mean' value
- Formally, if  $V$  is the set of possible values of a random variable  $X$ , then

$$E(X) = \sum_{v \in V} v \cdot \Pr[X = v]$$

- Properties of expectation:
  - let  $X$  be a random variable, let  $a$  be a number then
$$E(aX) = a \cdot E(X)$$
  - let  $X$  and  $Y$  be random variables then
$$E(X + Y) = E(X) + E(Y)$$

## Expectation (cntd)

### ● Example

Lottery: 1000000 tickets, 4 tickets win \$1000000, 5 tickets win \$100000, 5000 tickets win \$1000. What is the average win?

$X$ : the amount won

$V$ : {1000000, 100000, 1000, 0}

$$\Pr[X = 10^6] = \frac{4}{10^6}$$

$$\Pr[X = 10^5] = \frac{5}{10^6}$$

$$\Pr[X = 1000] = \frac{5000}{10^6} = \frac{1}{200}$$

$$\Pr[X = 0] = \text{the rest}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= 10^6 \cdot \Pr[X = 10^6] \\ &\quad + 10^5 \cdot \Pr[X = 10^5] \\ &\quad + 1000 \cdot \Pr[X = 1000] \\ &\quad + 0 \cdot \Pr[X = 0] \\ &= 10^6 \cdot \frac{4}{10^6} + 10^5 \cdot \frac{5}{10^6} \\ &\quad + 1000 \cdot \frac{5}{1000} \\ &= 4 + 0.5 + 5 = 9.5 \end{aligned}$$

### ● Expectation of Bernoulli random variable

$$\Pr[N = 1] = p, \quad \Pr[N = 0] = 1 - p$$

$$E(N) = p = 1 \cdot p + 0 \cdot (1 - p) = p$$

### ● Expectation of the binomial random variable ( $k$ trials):

$$E(N) = E(N_1 + \dots + N_k) = E(N_1) + \dots + E(N_k) = k \cdot p$$

比如 硬币一共投了 6 次,

则正面向上次数的期望值为  $6 \times \frac{1}{2} = 3$  次

## Independent Random Variables

- Random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent if for any value  $v$  of  $X$  and any value  $w$  of  $Y$  the events  $X = v$  and  $Y = w$  are independent
- Example
  - flipping 2 coins,  $N$  and  $N_1$  are not independent
  - flipping 2 coins,  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  are independent
- Properties of expectation
  - if  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent then  $E(\underline{XY}) = E(X) \cdot E(Y)$

$A =$  投2枚硬币

$X =$  第一枚硬币正面朝上  $E(X) = \frac{1}{2}$

$Y =$  第二枚硬币正面朝上  $E(Y) = \frac{1}{2}$

$XY =$  两枚硬币都正面朝上  $E(XY) = \frac{1}{4}$

## Birthday Paradox

- Suppose we have  $n$  people at a party. What is the probability some two of them have the same birthday?
- How many guests are needed so that this happens with considerable probability? Say,  $\geq \frac{1}{2}$

- **Theorem:**

Let  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  be outcomes of  $n$  independent trials of the same experiment with sample space  $\Omega$ . If  $n \geq 1.2 \cdot \sqrt{|\Omega|}$  then the probability that  $a_i = a_j$  for some  $i, j$  is greater than  $\frac{1}{2}$

- For birthdays  $|\Omega| = 365$

两个人生日是同一天 的概率  $\geq \frac{1}{2}$  的概率

(概率 の 概率)

## Randomized Algorithms

- An algorithm that has access to random bits, that is, can flip coins, is called randomized
- The sample space associated with such an algorithm is the set of possible bit strings
- A random variable associated with it is, for instance, the running time

↳ break a crypto system by a chance.

↳ try to guess a password.